



OPEN LETTER TO UWL PARENTS & FAMILIES FOR THE WANDERLUST STUDENT

Dear Family,

I hope this letter finds you both in good spirits and with your seat belts securely fastened, but I cause I'm about to drop some news that might make you want to sit down. Brace yourselves: I want to study abroad!

Now, before you start envisioning me getting lost in some far-off land or accidentally ordering cow tongue for dinner (although, let's be real, that's probably going to happen at least once), hear me out. I promise this isn't just a ploy to escape doing laundry for a semester (though that is a tempting bonus).

First and foremost, studying abroad is like hitting the pause button on life and hitting play on an adventure movie. Think about it: instead of just reading about ancient civilizations in a textbook, I could be dodging llamas in Peru or deciphering hieroglyphics in Egypt. Who needs Netflix when you can have real-life Indiana Jones moments?

Plus, I've heard that studying abroad is like a crash course in adulting. I'll have to figure out things like budgeting (translation: no more Starbucks every day), navigating public transportation (pray for me), and maybe even doing my laundry (okay, maybe I'll miss that part).

And let's not forget the educational benefits! I mean, sure, I could learn about art history by staring at a slideshow in a dark classroom, or I could go see the Mona Lisa in person and try not to blink too loudly. Talk about a hands-on learning experience!

But most importantly, studying abroad is about expanding my horizons, both literally and figuratively. It's about stepping out of my comfort zone (and possibly into a pile of cow dung) and discovering new cultures, perspectives, and maybe even a newfound appreciation for mom's cooking (no promises).

Look at all the types of programs and places I could study on the UWL International Education & Engagement (IEE) website! IEE has four information sessions every week for me to ask questions and learn more about studying abroad. Plus, they have a UWL Exchange Study Abroad Event on Valentine's Day called "Exchange is in the Air." Rumor has it that you pay UWL tuition to do these programs, too.

So, what do you say, Mom and Dad? Are you ready to embark on this wild ride with me? Don't worry; I promise to send postcards (and maybe even call once in a while).

With love and wanderlust,

Your UWL Eagle

P.S. Can I borrow your suitcase?

